

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

4 MAY 1983

Mark Hosenball
The Sunday Times
1333 H Street, NW
Suite 440
Washington, DC 20005

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2006

Dear Mr. Hosenball:

This acknowledges receipt of your letter written on 4 April 1983 in which you requested certain information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Portions of your request, as submitted, cannot be processed under the FOIA. Under the provisions of the FOIA, we are neither authorized nor required to perform research or create records on behalf of a requester. Almost without exception, our FOIA searches, because of the structure of our records systems, must be limited to those that can be conducted for records that are indexed or maintained under the name of an individual, organization, title, or other specific entity. Further, if our searches surface information, we are not permitted to analyze that information on behalf of a requester to determine if it is in some way related to an event, activity, incident, or other occurrence.

Regarding that portion of your request dealing with specific names of individuals, these are searchable items within the meaning of the FOIA; however, we will need basic biographic information on each of the individuals named in your letter as well as their full name. At the very least we need a date and place of birth and nationality. Without such information, it will be difficult to distinguish between different individuals with the same or similar names.

Concerning that portion of your request dealing with general information such as "neo-Nazi activity in Latin America since World War II" and "material relating to possible links between Latin American neo-Nazis and European neo-fascist movements from 1946 to the present time," it is of such a general and, frankly, ambiguous nature as to require endless hours of

research to determine such things as "neo-Nazis" and "neo-fascists." Permit us to repeat that the FOIA neither requires nor authorizes any federal agency to conduct research. We ask, therefore, that you re-examine your overall request and attempt to restructure it in such a way as to avoid any research requirements and to identify events, organizations, and incidents with more specificity.

Regarding your request for a waiver of fees, we will address that issue when you have refined your request to meet the searchability test of the FOIA.

We are suspending all active processing of your request until such time as we hear from you regarding the above matters.

Sincerely,



Larry R. Strawderman
Information and Privacy Coordinator